

RAPID GENDER ASSESSMENT ON THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

TECHNICAL REPORT – BANGLADESH SURVEY FIELDWORK

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2021



1. Introduction

Prompted by strong concern that the COVID-19 pandemic has intensified the risk of different forms of violence against women and girls, particularly intimate partner/domestic violence, and realizing the need to collect reliable data that are in line with methodological, safety and ethical standards, UN Women commissioned Ipsos to conduct a study on the impact of COVID-19 on women's well-being and safety in 13 countries across several regions all over the world. The participating countries were Albania, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Nigeria, Paraguay, Thailand and Ukraine.

The **core objectives** of the study were to:

- collect data on the impacts of COVID-19 on violence against women in low- and middle-income countries.
- strengthen measurement and methodologies for violence against women data collection and use.
- strengthen available knowledge on all forms of violence against women and improve capacities to collect, analyse and use data on violence against women in accordance with globally agreed methodological, safety and ethical standards.
- inform where the policy and programmatic response of UN Women should focus and support UN system-wide efforts to scale up actions to address violence against women in the context of COVID-19.

The following groups contributed to the **project's management and execution**:

1. the UN Women project team, comprising statisticians, researchers and policy specialists;
2. the Technical Advisory Group – an external reference group established by UN Women to provide independent technical advice and expertise to the project;
3. the Ipsos project team involved in the set-up and delivery of the study; and
4. national fieldwork partners.

Methodology of the study	
Target group	Women aged 18+
Timing	Two-phased approach: Phase I (four countries) took place May–June 2021; Phase II (nine countries) took place August–September 2021
Data collection method	Computer-Assisted Telephone Interview (CATI)
Sampling approach	Random probability sampling with monitoring of quota on age and region Random-digit dialling to mobile sample frames
Sample Size	1,200 women aged 18+ per country
Questionnaire length and type	Target duration of max. 20 minutes No open-ended answers Informed consent asked to each participant at the beginning of the interview Awareness of safety, privacy and confidentiality of women respondents Guided by the “do no harm” principle applicable to the women respondents and the interviewers/research team The questionnaire was adapted in each country by localizing characters’ names and cultural references (i.e., popular food, music, sports).
Scripting	Central scripting in software applications - iField and Dimensions
Language	At least one main language per country

The country chapters provide information on the set-up of the data collection process (obtaining of ethical clearance, sampling and translation), description of the fieldwork, main characteristics of the achieved sample by several indicators (age group, region, area type, educational attainment), technical information (interview duration, contact outcomes, screen-outs, temporary interview suspension at safety questions, survey dropouts, use of safety word, and item non-response), key field observations and relevant lessons and recommendations.

2. Country information

2. Bangladesh

2.1.1 Obtaining ethical clearance

UN Women sought general support or tacit approval for the study from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics. A 'no objection' was granted on 1 April 2021 in support of the project.

2.1.2 Sampling plan

A single-frame cell-phone random-digit dialling (RDD) survey design was used to reach a nationally representative sample of women aged 18+. The sample mirrored the telephone database distribution (frame size) by provider.¹ The gross (unscreened) sample included numbers for each of the providers in the country to the same proportions as in the frame size. In 2020, 103% of the population had a mobile subscription;² in other words, many people in the country have more than one mobile phone number registered in their name.

Of the 700,000,000 numbers available in the sample frame, 170,136,762³ (24%) were expected to be working numbers (based on cell subscriptions in 2019). The sample was pulsed, meaning that a signal was sent to the randomly generated phone numbers to verify if the numbers existed (i.e., if connection could be achieved). The upfront pulsing of the gross sample closely reflected the market shares of the different operators (in terms of subscriptions). The sample was also screened against business registers so as to exclude numbers that were used by companies. Further details on the sampling frame are provided in section 2.4.1 of the main technical report.

To ensure a representative sample, quotas were set on age (18–29, 30–39, 40–49, 50–59, 60+) and region (first-level administrative division), using the following statistical sources:

- Age: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019).⁴
- Region: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (Population & Housing Census, 2011).⁵

¹ Banglalink (Orascom Telecom Ltd) 200,000,000; Grameenphone 200,000,000; Robi (Robi Axiata Ltd) 200,000,000; TeleTalk 100,000,000.

² Calculations made using 2020 World Bank data.

³ World Bank Data: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/IT.CEL.SETS?end=2020&locations=BD&start=2020>

⁴ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. 2019. World Population Prospects. 2019. Online Edition. Rev. 1.: File INT/3-3: Women population by single age, region, subregion and country, annually for 1950–2100.

https://population.un.org/wpp/Publications/Files/WPP2019_Volume-I_Comprehensive-Tables.pdf

⁵ http://bbs.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/bbs.portal.gov.bd/page/7b7b171a_731a_4854_8e0a_f8f7dede4a4a/PHC2011PreliminaryReport.pdf

2.1.3 Translation

The questionnaire was translated into Bengali.

No issues related to equivalence (conceptual equivalence, semantic equivalence, etc.) were encountered during translation.

The questionnaire required localization for several items in the text of the questions and answers, including widely known, yet neutral in meaning, male and female names, which were used in the vignettes in the Safety Section of the survey. In Bangladesh, the male name used was **রহমান** (Rahman) and the female, **বেগম** (Begum).

2.1.4 Fieldwork period

Fieldwork took place between 18 August and 30 September 2021. The field team consisted of 10 interviewers plus four diallers who made initial calls to screen for eligible participants, before transferring these participants to the interviewers. Following the specifications of the study, both the diallers and the interviewers were all women. The diallers first introduced the survey and then asked the respondents the screener questions (on age and region/district). Then they asked eligible respondents if they wished to continue the survey. The details of respondents willing to continue were passed to the interviewers on an ongoing basis, who then called the respondents again and asked if it was a convenient time for the interview, or if they wished to make an appointment for another time.

The interviewing team did not work on Fridays and also observed one public holiday (Shuva Janmashtami on 30 August) during the fieldwork. During the first three weeks the fieldwork progressed well and the local team did not face any issues achieving its weekly targets. Subsequently, however, as interviewers' focus narrowed to achieving interviews with harder-to-reach respondents in particular regions and age groups, the pace of progress slowed down. This necessitated the extension of the original fieldwork end date from 13 September to 30 September. Extensions were also necessary in other countries but in Bangladesh the fieldwork took the longest. This was partly because, unlike the other countries, the Bangladesh team had no pre-existing contact database with which they could supplement the RDD sample in order to target harder to reach women – specifically women aged 60+ who proved especially difficult reach. Thus, they had to persevere with the available RDD sample until they were able to achieve satisfactory numbers of women in each target group.

2.1.5 Achieved sample

In total, 1,242 valid interviews were completed in Bangladesh. For the most part, the distribution of the sample across age groups was in line with the targets, with the exception of the 60+ age group, where the number of completed interviews was 4 percentage points below the set target.

Table 1: Achieved sample, by age group (Bangladesh)

Age group	Target	Target %	Completed (unweighted)	Completed % (unweighted)	Weighted % ⁶	Difference unweighted % vs. target % ⁷	Difference weighted % vs. target %
18–29	386	32%	420	34%	32%	2%	0%
30–39	292	24%	318	26%	24%	1%	0%
40–49	225	19%	246	20%	19%	1%	0%
50–59	158	13%	160	13%	13%	0%	0%
60+	139	12%	98	8%	12%	-4%	0%

The regional targets were generally met, notwithstanding small shortfalls of 2 percentage points in the Mymensingh region, 3 points in the Rajshahi region and 5 percentage points in the Rangpur region.

Table 2: Achieved sample, by region (Bangladesh)

Region	Target	Target %	Completed (unweighted)	Completed % (unweighted)	Weighted %	Difference unweighted % vs. target % ⁸	Difference weighted % vs. target %
Barishal	70	6%	77	6%	6%	0%	0%
Chittagong	242	20%	284	23%	20%	3%	0%
Dhaka	295	25%	342	28%	25%	3%	0%
Mymensingh	92	8%	72	6%	8%	-2%	0%
Khulna	131	11%	159	13%	11%	2%	0%
Rajshahi	154	13%	127	10%	13%	-3%	0%
Rangpur	132	11%	81	7%	11%	-5%	0%
Sylhet	83	7%	100	8%	7%	1%	0%

The distribution across rural (56.4%) and urban (43.6%) areas (as self-reported by respondents) was relatively close to data from the World Bank that estimate a total rural population of 62%.⁹

⁶ Weighting procedures are discussed in more detail in section 4.4.2 of the main technical report.

⁷ The figures in this column reflect the actual difference of the unweighted and target percentages. Any variations are caused by the rounding up of the percentages in the table.

⁸ The figures in this column reflect the actual difference of the unweighted and target percentages. Any variations are caused by the rounding up of the percentages in the table.

⁹ World Bank Data: https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.URB.TOTL.IN.ZS?end=2020&locations=BD&start=2020&year_high_desc=true

Table 3: Achieved sample, by area type (Bangladesh)

Area	Completed (unweighted)	Completed % (unweighted)	Weighted %
Urban	541	43.6%	42.1%
Rural	701	56.4%	57.9%

Almost half of the respondents had completed primary school or had no formal education, while around a third had completed secondary school or attended technical or vocational training. Around 20% of respondents had attended a tertiary education programme.

Table 4: Achieved sample, by educational attainment (Bangladesh)

Education level	Completed (unweighted)	Completed % (unweighted)	Weighted %
No formal education	161	13.0%	14.9%
Completed primary school	414	33.3%	32.5%
Completed secondary school	383	30.8%	30.2%
Technical & vocational training	26	2.1%	2.1%
Completed university/college	166	13.4%	12.9%
Completed post-graduate	92	7.4%	7.3%
Don't know	0	0.0%	0.0%
Refused	0	0.0%	0.0%

2.1.6 Quality control and data processing

Two interviews were removed from the sample in Bangladesh because they did not meet the quality criteria in terms of length, straight-lining and/or item non-response. (Section 4.4 of the main technical report provides a detailed description of the implemented quality control procedures and how data were processed).

2.1.7 Technical information

The interview duration exceeded the envisaged length of 20 minutes, at 31.91 minutes on average (compared with a mean of 23 minutes across the nine countries in Phase II). This was mainly due to the fact that the interviewers had to reread some questions to respondents and/or give additional explanations to facilitate comprehension. The local team observed that members of the public in the country, and especially women, were not so used to participating in surveys over the phone but rather in a face-to-face setting.

Table 5: Interview duration (Bangladesh)

Mean	Median	Standard deviation
31.91	31.10	6.77

The response rate in Bangladesh was 11.70%, calculated by using the first American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) definition of response rate (RR1). That is, the number of complete interviews divided by the number of interviews (complete plus partial) plus the number of non-interviews (refusal and break-off plus non-contacts plus others) plus all cases of unknown eligibility (unknown if housing unit, plus unknown, other).¹⁰

The table below shows the incidence of each outcome code.

Table 6: Contact outcomes (Bangladesh)

Contact outcomes	Count	% of all outcomes
Fixed appointment	0	0%
Soft appointment	0	0%
Incomplete interview with call-back to resume later	0	0%
Telephone answering device / voicemail / message service	0	0%
Busy / engaged	0	0%
No answer	0	0%
Complete	1,243	4%
Screen-out	12,479	40%
Incomplete interview with no call-back (terminated)	41	0%
Immediate refusal (before eligibility of respondent has been confirmed)	462	1%

¹⁰ AAPOR. 2015. Standard Definitions. https://www.aapor.org/AAPOR_Main/media/MainSiteFiles/Standard-Definitions2015_8thEd.pdf

Refusal by eligible respondent (after eligibility of respondent has been confirmed, but before the actual interview started)	128	0%
Respondent never available for appointment	7,448	24%
Deceased respondent	1	0%
Respondent physically or mentally unable / incompetent	15	0%
Respondent or household language problem	4	0%
Call blocking / barring / do not call list	1,306	4%
Fax / data line / modem / pager	3	0%
Non-working / disconnected / dead / bad number	7,746	25%
Non-residential number (business, government office, other organization)	5	0%
Technical issue / CATI system error	0	0%

The table below provides an overview of specific call outcomes (completed interview, partial interview, and refusals) by the time of the day (morning, afternoon, evening) and the day of the week. The figures should be interpreted with caution as they do not reflect the percentage out of all contact attempts performed during this time/on that day, but the split of these specific outcomes across the time of the day/day of the week. Feedback from the field team on the best time and the best day to obtain an interview is provided in section 2.1.8.

Table 7: Call outcome, by time of the day and day of the week (Bangladesh)

		Completed interviews		Partial interviews		Refusals	
		Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Sunday	Morning	40	3%	5	4%	0	0%
	Afternoon	159	13%	19	15%	0	0%
	Evening	8	1%	1	1%	0	0%
Monday	Morning	15	1%	6	5%	0	0%
	Afternoon	154	12%	18	14%	0	0%
	Evening	7	1%	0	0%	0	0%
Tuesday	Morning	48	4%	8	6%	1	11%
	Afternoon	151	12%	15	12%	2	22%
	Evening	10	1%	0	0%	0	0%

Wednesday	Morning	31	2%	5	4%	0	0%
	Afternoon	156	13%	11	8%	0	0%
	Evening	23	2%	0	0%	1	11%
Thursday	Morning	40	3%	2	2%	0	0%
	Afternoon	187	15%	13	10%	2	22%
	Evening	9	1%	1	1%	0	0%
Friday	Morning	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	Afternoon	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	Evening	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Saturday	Morning	40	3%	5	4%	0	0%
	Afternoon	145	12%	21	16%	3	33%
	Evening	17	1%	0	0%	0	0%

Eighty-six per cent of the sample called were men and so screened out at the very beginning of the survey. Of all the countries covered in the study, Bangladesh was the country with the largest share of screened-out men. This was the first CATI RDD study conducted by the team in Bangladesh so they held no data that could provide a benchmark of the likely ratio of men to women in the sample. However, based on their wider survey experience and familiarity with the local context, they did expect that the sample would be heavily weighted towards men.

Only three respondents were screened out because they were younger than 18 years old, while nine were screened out because they did not want to participate, and two because they said they did not understand the confidentiality measures.

Table 8: Screen-outs (Bangladesh)

Question	Answer	Count	% of total answered
S3	Sex: Male	10,792	85.9%
S4_1+S4_2	Age: Below 18 years	3	0.03%
S1	Willing to participate: No	9	0.06%
S6	Understand purpose: No	0	0.00%
S7	Understand confidentiality: No	2	0.02%

The interview was temporarily discontinued in six cases because the respondent answered “no” to one of the five ‘safety’ questions (listed in Table 9 below).

As noted earlier in this report, question S2a was added to the survey for Bangladesh only (And can you also please confirm that any recording device on your mobile phone is switched off?), after the local team informed the central coordinating team that it was common for people in Bangladesh to have apps installed on their mobile phones that automatically recorded all of their phone conversations. One person was screened out from the survey because they could not confirm that this app was turned off on their mobile device.

Table 9: Temporary interview suspension due to responses at safety questions (Bangladesh)

Question	Answer	Count	% of total answered
S2	Can you let me know if the speaker phone is off? No	2	0.1%
S2a	And can you also please confirm that any recording device on your mobile phone is switched off?	1	0.1%
S5	Can you confirm if now is a good time? No	2	0.1%
Bo1	Can you confirm that there is no one around you over the age of 2 that can overhear our conversation? No	0	0.0%
C18	Alternatively, if someone over two is listening to our call or is nearby that can hear, please say no. No	1	0.1%

One hundred and thirty respondents dropped out of the survey. The table below shows the questions at which the dropouts occurred. The largest numbers of dropouts were at A01 (23), A07 (19) and S11 (15).

Table 10: Survey dropouts, by question (Bangladesh)

Question	Question text	No. of participants dropped out	% of total dropouts
S11	Great. If you don't have any further questions we can proceed. Now we just need a bit more information about you. Would you consider the area you live in to be urban or rural?	15	11.5%
A01	What is your marital status?	23	17.7%
A07_ASK	How many of the people living in your household are aged 0-17?	19	14.6%
A08_ASK	How many of the people living in your household are men aged 18 or over?	4	3.1%
A06	How many people including yourself, live in your household?	5	3.8%
A02	What is the highest level of education that you completed?	9	6.9%
A03	Which of the following best describes what you mainly do each day...?	2	1.5%

Question	Question text	No. of participants dropped out	% of total dropouts
A05	Do you have difficulty doing any of the following – walking, seeing (even when wearing glasses), hearing (even with hearing assistance), remembering or concentrating, self-caring or communicating?	2	1.5%
A11	Has your household's income changed at all since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic?	3	2.3%
A12	During the last month, was there a time when, because of lack of money or other resources, you or others in your household...	8	6.2%
Bo1	Thank you for your responses so far. I am now going to ask you some questions related to your health. Before we begin, this section, can you confirm that there is no one around you over the age of 2 that can overhear our conversation?	2	1.5%
Bo2	I would now like to ask you some questions about your thoughts and feelings since the onset of the COVID-19 situation. How often have you been bothered by the following problems since the onset of the COVID-19 situation? Please answer with: not at all, several days, more than half the days, or nearly every day.	5	3.8%
Bo4	Overall, would you say your own mental or emotional health (e.g., stress, anxiety, confidence, etc.) has been affected AS A RESULT OF THE COVID-19 SITUATION?	1	0.8%
Co2	To what extent, if at all, do you feel safe when walking alone during the day in the area where you live?	3	2.3%
Co3	To what extent, if at all, do you feel safe when walking alone at night in the area where you live?	5	3.8%
Co4	How, if at all, has your feeling of safety while walking alone at night changed SINCE THE ONSET OF COVID-19?	1	0.8%
Co7	To what extent do you think that physical harm, abuse, or harassment of women is a problem in the area where you live?	3	2.3%
Co8	How, if at all, do you think physical harm, abuse, or harassment of women in the area where you live have changed SINCE COVID-19?	3	2.3%
C12	Do you think [Scripter: insert Female name] would seek help for this situation?	2	1.5%
C13	Who would [Scripter: insert Female name] most likely seek help from?	3	2.3%
C14	How common do you think this type of situation is for women in the area where you live?	1	0.8%

Question	Question text	No. of participants dropped out	% of total dropouts
C17	Who would [Scripter: insert Female name] most likely seek help from?	3	2.3%
C18	Just to make sure, before we continue, can you confirm that there is no one around you over the age of 2 that can overhear our conversation? If you are alone, please say yes. Alternatively, if someone over 2 is listening to our call or is nearby that can hear, please say no.	1	0.8%
C19	When people live together in the same household, they usually share both good and bad moments. And it is normal for people who live together to have arguments. How often in the last six months would you say that adults in your household have argued or have had some sort of conflict among themselves?	4	3.1%
C21	In the last six months, did you ever feel unsafe in your home?	1	0.8%
C24	How often, if at all, did you go out of your house by yourself in the last month?	1	0.8%
C28B	Please tell me how many of the following statements you regard as true: 1. People in my family have played [POPULAR LOCAL SPORT]. 2. I have been slapped or hit by my husband or partner AFTER THE ONSET OF COVID-19 3. I like [NAME OF WELL-KNOWN TV SHOW, BUT NOT ONE EVERYONE LIKES] 4. I prefer [LOCAL FOOD THREE] to [LOCAL FOOD FOUR]	4	0.8%
	Total	130	100%

As previously explained, and as part of the safety protocols, respondents were given a safe word, a specific popular local food (PLF), that they could use if they were disturbed by a third party or otherwise felt unsafe at any point during the interview. In Bangladesh, the food used was “ভাত” (cooked rice). This word was used five times during the course of fieldwork. The table below shows the questions at which this occurred.

Table 11: Use of popular local food, per question (Bangladesh)

Question	Question text	PLF mentioned
S11	Great. If you don't have any further questions we can proceed. Now we just need a bit more information about you. Would you consider the area you live in to be urban or rural?	4
S12_NEW	And do you own the phone you are speaking on?	1
	Total	5

In terms of item non-response (INR), this varied across the survey but was highest at A01, the marital status question (13%). The local team observed that this may in part have been a function of the question being placed at the beginning of the survey, and also the use of a CATI methodology – the team typically experience fewer INR to marital status questions in face-to-face surveys.

A high item non-response on this question was observed among many of the countries in Phase II of the survey – though not during Phase I (the average item non-response for all four Phase I countries at A01 was less than 5%). This difference may in part reflect the fact that the answer options in the question were adjusted for Phase II (discussed in detail in section 2.5.2 of the main technical report), with the original 'Married' option split into two different options: 'Married, spouse partner is residing with you' and 'Married, spouse/partner is residing elsewhere'. It is possible that the new version raised some sensitivities for women – for example, they may have been reluctant to report that their husband did not live with them – and thus contributed to high item non-response at this question.

Other questions with high INR were C31_1 (12.30%), C31_4 (12.10%), C31_2 (10.50%), and C31_6 (8.60%). This may reflect a lack of knowledge among respondents of services available for women in their communities. The INR for each question in the survey in Bangladesh is presented below. Questions not included in the table have an INR of 0%.

Table 12: Item non-response (Bangladesh)

Question	Question text	Item non-response
A01	What is your marital status?	13.00%
A04_1	Would you say that the money that you earn is...	0.10%
C03	To what extent, if at all, do you feel safe when walking alone at night in the area where you live?	0.30%
C04	How, if at all, has your feeling of safety while walking alone at night changed SINCE THE ONSET OF COVID-19?	0.50%
C07	To what extent do you think that physical harm, abuse, or harassment of women is a problem in the area where you live?	0.20%
C08	How, if at all, do you think physical harm, abuse, or harassment of women in the area where you live have changed SINCE COVID-19?	0.40%

C11	Would you say the situation of COVID-19 has made things better, worse or the same for [Scripter: insert Female name] from this story?	0.20%
C12	Do you think [Scripter: insert Female name] would seek help for this situation?	0.10%
C14	How common do you think this type of situation is for women in the area where you live?	0.30%
C15	Would you say the situation of COVID-19 has made things better, worse or the same for [Scripter: insert Female name] from this story in terms of her feelings of safety?	0.70%
C20	Would you say the situation of COVID-19 has made conflict between adults in your household more frequent, less frequent or about the same?	0.20%
C23_1	Why do you feel unsafe in your home? 1. I have a serious medical condition or disability and feel vulnerable	0.10%
C23_9	Why do you feel unsafe in your home? 9. Other women in the household have been hurt	0.10%
C23_10	Why do you feel unsafe in your home? 10. Children in the household have been hurt	0.10%
C29B	Please tell me how many of the following statements you regard as true: 1. People in my family have played [POPULAR LOCAL SPORT]. 2. I like [NAME OF WELL-KNOWN TV SHOW, BUT NOT ONE EVERYONE LIKES] 3. I prefer [LOCAL FOOD THREE] to [LOCAL FOOD FOUR] 98. Don't know 99. Refused	0.10%
C30_1	Now I'm going to ask you about some situations that you or any other women you know may have experienced. For each situation, please tell if you or any other women you know have experienced this only before the start of COVID-19, only since the start of COVID-19, both before and since the start of COVID-19, or not at all. Please listen carefully and just answer "yes" or "no" for each question I ask. 1. Been slapped, hit, kicked, had things thrown at them, or other physical harm	1.40%
C30_2	Now I'm going to ask you about some situations that you or any other women you know may have experienced. For each situation, please tell if you or any other women you know have experienced this only before the start of COVID-19, only since the start of COVID-19, both before and since the start of COVID-19, or not at all. Please listen carefully and just answer "yes" or "no" for each question I ask. 2. Been yelled at, called names, humiliated	0.70%
C30_3	Now I'm going to ask you about some situations that you or any other women you know may have experienced. For each situation, please tell if you or any other women you know have experienced this only before the start of COVID-19, only since the start of COVID-19, both before and since the start of COVID-19, or not at all. Please listen carefully and just answer "yes" or "no" for each question I ask. 3. Had resources (like healthcare) or basic needs (like money, food, water, shelter) denied	2.90%

C30_4	<p>Now I'm going to ask you about some situations that you or any other women you know may have experienced. For each situation, please tell if you or any other women you know have experienced this only before the start of COVID-19, only since the start of COVID-19, both before and since the start of COVID-19, or not at all. Please listen carefully and just answer "yes" or "no" for each question I ask.</p> <p>4. Been forced to stay alone for long period of time or denied communication with other people</p>	3.50%
C30_5	<p>Now I'm going to ask you about some situations that you or any other women you know may have experienced. For each situation, please tell if you or any other women you know have experienced this only before the start of COVID-19, only since the start of COVID-19, both before and since the start of COVID-19, or not at all. Please listen carefully and just answer "yes" or "no" for each question I ask.</p> <p>5. Been the subject of inappropriate jokes, suggestive comments, leering, or unwelcome touch/kisses</p>	2.30%
C31_1	<p>Are any of the following support services available for women in your community?</p> <p>1. Information about security/crime prevention</p>	12.30%
C31_2	<p>Are any of the following support services available for women in your community?</p> <p>2. Access to basic needs such as shelter, food, clothing</p>	10.50%
C31_3	<p>Are any of the following support services available for women in your community?</p> <p>3. Medical support</p>	5.80%
C31_4	<p>Are any of the following support services available for women in your community?</p> <p>4. Someone to talk to like professional mental health experts</p>	12.10%
C31_5	<p>Are any of the following support services available for women in your community?</p> <p>5. Legal support or help in reporting the incident or dealing with police</p>	6.90%
C31_6	<p>Are any of the following support services available for women in your community?</p> <p>6. Financial support</p>	8.60%

2.1.8 Field observations

This section describes the observations made by the field managers and interviewers in the course of fieldwork. The observations relate to the most productive days for fieldwork; the main reasons for refusal to take part in the survey; challenges reaching certain age groups; and the clarity of terms, concepts and questions, among other topics. The observations effectively complement the fieldwork statistics included in the previous section, providing a more nuanced picture of the fieldwork experience.

- According to the field team, there was no single best day of the week to reach respondents and all weekdays were equally productive. The weekend in Bangladesh falls on Friday and Saturday and no interviews took place on Fridays. As far as the most suitable time of the day to reach respondents was concerned, the interviewers observed that it was easier to reach respondents in the mornings from 9:30 am to 12 pm and particularly in the afternoons between 3 pm and 6 pm, than at other times.
- The main reasons for refusals to take part in the survey were a lack of time, a perceived lack of personal benefits to taking part, and a general lack of interest. Another reason observed was the request to have the speakerphone turned off and the fact that respondents did not think such privacy protocols were necessary when talking to a stranger on the phone.
- The oldest age group (60+) was less represented in the RDD sample frame and generally proved harder to reach than other age groups. It should be noted that mobile phone ownership among this age group in Bangladesh is very low. Unfortunately, the interviewing team did not have an existing contact database (for example, one compiled from previous surveys conducted in the country) with which to supplement the RDD sample, as was done on other countries. Further, given the sensitivity of the study and the applied safety protocols, snowballing was not considered a safe alternative method of reaching older women. Therefore, the interviewers had to rely solely on the RDD sample, which led to the significant extension of the fieldwork period.
- The (telephone) data-collection method was perceived as appropriate – albeit the local team emphasized the importance of a sufficiently long fieldwork period to ensure quotas can be met.

In terms of observations relating to the survey questionnaire:

- The field team reported that respondents in Bangladesh found questions such as “Do you feel safe at home?” and “How often in the last six months have adults in your household argued?” more sensitive to answer and exhibited some discomfort in answering them (for example lowered their voice or took longer to respond).
- Although women received detailed instructions about the use of the **popular local food safe** word, only five of the respondents in Bangladesh actually made appropriate use of it when the relevant circumstances arose – that is, when their privacy became compromised. More typically, when respondents were interrupted, they said: “my husband has come/my mother-in-law is around, I cannot continue”. In these situations another appointment was made to complete the interview at a different time.

2.1.9 Lessons learned and recommendations

This section draws upon the fieldwork statistics and observations outlined in the previous sections to provide recommendations for future surveys on violence against women in Bangladesh. Specifically, whether remote data collection can be considered an appropriate approach to develop an evidence base on perceptions and incidence.

- **CATI** and the use of a **single-frame cell phone RDD design** worked well in Bangladesh and the researchers recommend considering this approach for future data-collection activities on violence against women. That said, older women (60+) and those living in certain regions (Mymensingh, Rajshahi and Rangpur) were more difficult to reach than other groups with the RDD sample. This should be reflected in the time dedicated to active data collection in future surveys with age- and region-based quotas. A longer fieldwork period would help to ensure the quotas are uniformly achieved. In the case of a face-to-face approach, a longer fieldwork period would be absolutely necessary, owing to the extra time required for physical visits to prospective respondents' homes. For any surveys with shorter fieldwork periods, consideration should be given from the outset to supplementing the RDD sample with available contact databases that mimic the characteristics of the RDD sample. This would increase the likelihood of quotas for harder-to-reach age groups being met. No such database was held by the Bangladesh team for this particular study but indicating the benefits of a contact database (which matches the requirements of the study) to the local team early on in the preparation stage of the study may lead to productive contingency preparations.
- Given the field team's observations that the **hours between 9:30 am and 12 pm in the morning and between 3 pm and 6 pm** in the afternoon were the most productive times for interviewing, it is recommended that additional resources be allocated to data-collection activities at these times, while at the same time remaining mindful of the need to avoid skewing the sample by interviewing only the most easy-to-reach women.
- Given the discovery that it is commonplace for people in Bangladesh to have apps installed on their mobile phones that automatically recorded their conversations, this should be borne in mind for any future surveys on violence against women in the country. It is strongly recommended that any such surveys incorporate a safety question similar to S2a that asks respondents to confirm that their recording device has been switched off before the interview proceeds.

Roughly 13% of the respondents did not answer the **question about their marital status** (A01). The issue was also evident to varying degrees across most of the other phase II countries. As mentioned, the wording of the answer options to A01 was adjusted in Phase II of the study and this may in part have contributed to the higher item non-response rate observed. This point notwithstanding, generally it is recommended that potentially sensitive socio-demographic questions like marital status be placed towards the end of a survey (rather than at the beginning as was the case in the Rapid Gender Assessment Survey), by which point some rapport will have been built between the interviewer and the respondent, making it easier for the interviewer to obtain an answer to the question. Including it at the end will also help to ensure that it does not cause dropouts early on in the survey.

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